

# Letters

## KELVIN'S LIFE

Dear Sir – You recently published a review of 'The Life of Lord Kelvin' (May 1977 *E & P*, p.418). It may be of interest that the first edition of this work, which has a lengthy bibliography of Kelvin's writings, states that his collected works are in four volumes. This, indeed, is what many encyclopaedias state, including the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (up to the 1947 edition, which we have on hand, and beyond into the 1960s and early 1970s). However, the death of Kelvin in 1907, which was responsible for the fullness of Thompsons biography of Kelvin, stimulated the Cambridge University Press to issue two further volumes of Kelvin's mathematical and physical papers: 'V: On thermodynamics, cosmical and geological physics, . . . , electrodynamics,' and 'VI: Voltaic theory, radioactivity, electrons, navigation and tides'. And we ourselves, in reissuing 'The life of Lord Kelvin', did not notice this until the very last moment. We did, however, update the bibliography to give the full information on the six, rather than four, volumes of the mathematical and physical papers.

But our immediate purpose in writing to you is to call to your attention a matter pertaining to the price of the book, as noticed in the review. The price is not £39.50 but only \$39.50. The two volumes will therefore sell in Great Britain for not more than £26 (the exact equivalent being in fact rather less, namely £23.)

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